

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: OLAV SOLGAARD; JONATHAN P. HERITAGE; AMAL R. BHATTARAI
Serial No.:
Filed:
For: MULTI-WAVELENGTH CROSS-CONNECT OPTICAL SWITCH
Group No.:
Examiner:
Docket No.: UC97-156-8

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendments in connection with the
above-identified U.S. patent application which is a continuation of co-pending
application serial number 09/618,320 filed on July 18, 2000:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following:

This application is a continuation of application serial number 09/618,320 filed on July 18, 2000, which is a continuation of application serial number 09/022,591 filed on February 12, 1998, now U.S. Patent 6,097,859, which claims priority from provisional application serial number 60/038,172 filed on February 13, 1997. This application is also related to co-pending application serial number 09/748,025 filed on 12/21/2000, co-pending application serial number 09/766,529 filed on 01/19/2001, co-pending application serial number 09/780,122 filed on 02/08/2001, and co-pending application serial number 09/813,446 filed on March 20, 2001.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 19 with the following:

Referring now to FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, the fiber-optic switch, being symmetric about its center, can be implemented with a symmetry mirror 58 in the symmetry plane 60. This essentially cuts the component count in half. The output channels may either be on the input fibers and separable by optical rotators (not shown) or on a separate output fiber array (not shown) that is placed above the input array. In the latter case, the micromirror array 62 and the symmetry mirror 58 are slightly tilted about an axis, such that the light is directed to the output fiber array.

FIG. 6

[illegible]

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2
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Please add the following new claims:

31. An optical switch, comprising at least one array of actuated mirrors configured for switching an optical beam from an input port to any output port.

32. An optical switch, comprising at least one array of actuated mirrors configured for switching an optical beam from any input port to an output port.

33. An optical switch as recited in claim 31 or 32, further comprising means for positioning said optical beam onto at least one array of actuated mirrors.

34. An optical switch as recited in claim 33, wherein said means for positioning comprises at least one lens.

35. An optical switch as recited in claim 31 or 32, further comprising at least one imaging component configured for positioning said optical beam onto at least one array of actuated mirrors.

36. An optical switch as recited in claim 35, wherein said imaging component comprises at least one lens.

37. An optical switch as recited in claim 31 or 32, wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific mirror in at least one array of actuated mirrors to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific input port.

38. An optical switch as recited in claim 31 or 32, wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific output port to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific mirror in at least one array of actuated mirrors.

39. An optical switch as recited in claim 31 or 32,
wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific mirror in at least one array of actuated mirrors to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific input port; and

wherein said optical switch is further configured for a specific output port to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific mirror in said at least one array of actuated mirrors.

40. An optical switch as recited in claim 31 or 32, wherein at least one array of actuated mirrors comprises a two-dimensional array.

41. An optical switch, comprising:

- (a) at least one input port;
- (b) at least one output port; and
- (c) at least one array of actuated mirrors configured for switching an optical beam from an input port to any output port.

42. An optical switch, comprising:

- (a) at least one input port;
- (b) at least one output port; and
- (c) at least one array of actuated mirrors configured for switching an optical beam from any input port to an output port.

43. An optical switch as recited in claim 41 or 42, further comprising means for positioning said optical beam onto at least one array of actuated mirrors.

44. An optical switch as recited in claim 43, wherein said means for positioning comprises at least one lens.

45. An optical switch as recited in claim 41 or 42, further comprising at least one imaging component configured for positioning said optical beam onto at least one array of actuated mirrors.

46. An optical switch as recited in claim 45, wherein said imaging component comprises at least one lens.

47. An optical switch as recited in claim 41 or 42, wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific mirror in at least one array of actuated mirrors to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific input port.

48. An optical switch as recited in claim 41 or 42, wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific output port to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific mirror in at least one array of actuated mirrors.

49. An optical switch as recited in claim 41 or 42,
wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific mirror in at least one array of actuated mirrors to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific input port; and

wherein said optical switch is further configured for a specific output port to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific mirror in said at least one array of actuated mirrors.

50. An optical switch as recited in claim 41 or 42, wherein at least one array of actuated mirrors comprises a two-dimensional array.

51. An optical switch, comprising:

- (a) at least one input port;
- (b) at least one output port;
- (c) at least one input array of actuated mirrors; and
- (d) at least one output array of actuated mirrors;
- (e) said input and output arrays of actuated mirrors configured for switching an optical beam from an input port to any output port.

52. An optical switch, comprising:

- (a) at least one input port;
- (b) at least one output port;
- (c) at least one input array of actuated mirrors; and
- (d) at least one output array of actuated mirrors;
- (e) said input and output arrays of actuated mirrors configured for switching

an optical beam from any input port to an output port.

53. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, further comprising means for positioning said optical beam onto at least one input array of actuated mirrors.

54. An optical switch as recited in claim 53, wherein said means for positioning comprises at least one lens.

55. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, further comprising at least one imaging component configured for positioning said optical beam onto at least one input array of actuated mirrors.

56. An optical switch as recited in claim 55, wherein at least one imaging component comprises at least one lens.

57. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific mirror in at least one input array of actuated mirrors to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific input port.

58. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific output port to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific mirror in at least one output array of actuated mirrors.

59. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52,
wherein said optical switch is configured for a specific mirror in at least one input array of actuated mirrors to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific input port; and

wherein said optical switch is further configured for a specific output port to receive an optical beam from a corresponding one specific mirror in at least one output array of actuated mirrors.

60. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, wherein each mirror in at least one input array of actuated mirrors is configured to steer an incident optical beam to any, but not more than one for a given setting, mirror in at least one output array of actuated mirrors.

61. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, wherein each output mirror in at least one output array of actuated mirrors can be set to receive an optical beam

from any, but not more than one for a given setting, mirror in at least one input array of actuated mirrors.

62. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52,

wherein each mirror in at least one input array of actuated mirrors is configured to steer an incident optical beam to any, but not more than one for a given setting, mirror in at least one output array of actuated mirrors; and

wherein each output mirror in at least one output array of actuated mirrors can be set to receive an optical beam from any, but not more than one for a given setting, mirror in at least one input array of actuated mirrors.

63. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, wherein at least one array of actuated mirrors comprises a two-dimensional array.

64. An optical switch as recited in claim 51 or 52, wherein at least one output array of actuated mirrors is spatially separated from at least one input array of actuated mirrors.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in connection with a continuation of copending application serial number 09/618,320 filed on July 18, 2000.

Entry is respectfully requested.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested prior to the first action on the merits.

09/618,320

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 has been amended as follows:

This application [claims priority from U.S. provisional application serial number 60/038,172 filed on February 13, 1997] is a continuation of application serial number 09/618,320 filed on July 18, 2000, which is a continuation of application serial number 09/022,591 filed on February 12, 1998, now U.S. Patent 6,097,859, which claims priority from provisional application serial number 60/038,172 filed on February 13, 1997. This application is also related to co-pending application serial number 09/748,025 filed on 12/21/2000, co-pending application serial number 09/766,529 filed on 01/19/2001, co-pending application serial number 09/780,122 filed on 02/08/2001, and co-pending application serial number 09/813,446 filed on March 20, 2001.

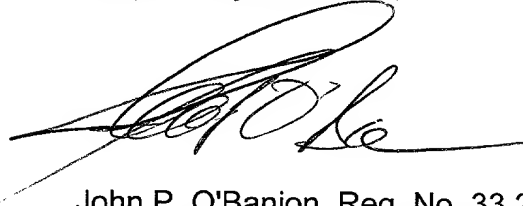
The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 19 has been amended as follows:

Referring now to FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, the fiber-optic switch, being symmetric about [it's] its center, can be implemented with a symmetry mirror 58 in the symmetry plane 60. This essentially cuts the component count in half. The output channels may either be on the input fibers and separable by optical rotators (not shown) or on a separate output fiber array (not shown) that is placed above the input array. In the latter case, the micromirror array 62 and the symmetry mirror 58 are slightly tilted about an axis, such that the light is directed to the output fiber array.

Date:

5/4/01

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John P. O'Banion', written in a cursive style.

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